

**For Immediate Release
March 28, 2011**

City of Columbus Crews Launch Annual Spring Concentrated Litter Cleanup Today

City of Columbus crews will begin their annual two-week concentrated spring litter cleanup today, Monday, March 28. The intensified effort to clean litter and debris from roadsides and elsewhere in the public right-of-way will go through April 8.

“City of Columbus employees are doing the hard work that sends the message that our roadsides are not public trash cans,” said Mayor Coleman. “Everyone has a role in making Columbus a cleaner and greener city, and that starts with not throwing litter on the ground.”

Between 2007 and 2010, City crews cleaned a total of 205 tons of litter from Columbus roadside during their annual spring concentrated litter cleanups. This year, city litter crews will clean 31 different locations, including portions of individual roadways.

“City workers and residents work year round to help keep Columbus a beautiful place to live and visit,” said Councilmember Eileen Y. Paley, chair of the Public Service & Transportation Committee. “These concentrated efforts during the next few weeks set an example for all to follow, reminding us all to do our part to improve the health and safety of Columbus.”

The city employees who will conduct the intensified two-week litter cleanup are the same employees who serve as Columbus’ Snow Warriors and pothole repair crews. In addition, these employees also sweep streets, cut grass and remove graffiti in the public right-of-way and clean city of Columbus bridge underpasses.

The city of Columbus also attacks litter with its Keep Columbus Beautiful (KCB) program, housed in the Department of Public Service. KCB works with neighborhood, business, church and other groups to clean litter in Columbus between April and October of each year. The groups are responsible for recruiting volunteers for the cleanups; KCB provides trash bags, gloves, litter grabbers, rakes and other equipment for the cleanups. In 2010, nearly 9,331 volunteers cleaned 183.2 tons of litter and debris in Columbus. Neighborhood groups who want to organize cleanups and work with KCB should call 311 or 645-3111.

City of Columbus 2011 Concentrated Litter Cleanup Facts

- ◆ Every spring, city of Columbus crews conduct concentrated litter cleanups
 - This year, the city of Columbus cleanup runs March 28 – April 8
- ◆ City of Columbus litter crews are responsible for cleaning the roadsides of 6,348 lane miles of roadway (*ODOT is responsible for cleaning litter on I-70, I-71, I-270 and I-670*)
 - City crews cleaned 70.9 tons of litter from the public right-of-way in 2010, including 33.44 tons of litter during their 2010 spring concentrated litter cleanup effort

- Between 2007 and 2010, City crews cleaned:
 - 205 tons of litter during their annual spring concentrated litter cleanups
 - 615 tons of litter from the public right-of-way (this includes the above figures for their annual spring litter cleanups)
- ◆ City of Columbus employees who will conduct this intensified two-week litter cleanup have other duties, including:
 - Serving as the city of Columbus' Snow Warriors
 - Patch potholes year round
 - Sweep streets from April through October
 - Cut grass and clean graffiti in the public right-of-way
 - Clean city of Columbus bridge underpasses
- ◆ In addition to city crews annual spring concentrated litter cleanup, the City's Keep Columbus Beautiful program works with business, neighborhood, church and other groups to clean litter and debris in Columbus April through October
 - The community groups are responsible for recruiting volunteers; KCB provides trash bags, gloves, litter grabbers, rakes and other equipment
 - In 2010, nearly 9,331 volunteers worked with KCB to clean 183.2 tons of litter in Columbus
 - Between 2001 and 2010, 99,903 residents volunteered their time to clean 1,871 tons of litter in Columbus neighborhoods
 - Upcoming KCB-sponsored cleanups scheduled in the spring of 2011 include:
 - April 9: KickButt Columbus; 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Dodge Park
 - May 7: OSU Rock the Block; time TBD
 - May 14: Plant Pride On Parsons Preview event; 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.; Preview of the 50 new hand-painted flower pots; all artists will be present; Vacant store front at Parsons and Reinhard Avenues
 - May 21: Plant Pride on Parsons cleanup; 9:30 a.m., starting at former site of the Schottenstein store bringing together Southside residents and businesses to clean up and beautify Parsons Avenue between Livingston Avenue and Marion Road
 - Neighborhood groups who want to organize cleanups and work with KCB should call 311 or 645-3111
 - For more information on KCB, go online to www.keepcolumbusbeautiful.org
 - KCB is housed in the Columbus Department of Public Service